

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
(Case No. 97,078-O)

PATENT

In application of: )  
Gocke et al. ) Before the Examiner:  
Serial No. To be assigned )  
Filed: August 22, 2003 ) Group Art Unit: 1656  
For: Detection of Extracellular Tumor- )  
Associated Nucleic Acid in Blood )  
Plasma or Serum using Nucleic Acid )  
Amplification Assay )

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Arlington, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Please enter the following amendments to the above-identified continuation application.

REMARKS

The amendments made herein to correct typographical errors and other informalities in the specification, and to correct the priority information. The signature of the undersigned attorney attests to the fact that no new matter is introduced into the specification by these amendments.

If the Examiner in charge of this application believes it to be helpful, he or she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (312) 913-0001.

Date: August 22, 2003

By:

Respectfully submitted,  
**McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff**  
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Kevin E. Noonan, Ph.D.  
Reg. No. 35,303